

Labor Resources for Lexington, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Lexington, South Carolina. Lexington is located in Lexington County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Lexington.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Lexington, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	335,998	590,030	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	155,363	270,320	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	9,477	17,079	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.1%	5.7%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	456	2,241	22,196
Average Wages	Lexington County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$546	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Lexington, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	155,363	270,320	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-18,753	-29,207	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	335,998	590,030	4,198,068
Change since 2000	12,376	23,154	186,056
Projected 2010	235,090	499,294	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	164,835	289,313	2,040,261
Female	171,164	300,717	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	74,659	130,421	875,330
Ages 35-49	68,918	123,064	925,330
Ages 50-64	57,877	101,567	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	166,787	294,117	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	113,626	201,684	778,054
Some College	57,304	98,806	500,194
Associate Degree	23,615	40,129	173,428
Bachelors Degree	43,809	73,386	351,526
Post Bachelor	18,372	31,421	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Lexington, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	145,886	253,242	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Lexington County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	601	1,079	12,379
Mining	136	286	1,603
Utilities	497	811	11,891
Construction	6,081	12,312	111,730
Manufacturing	13,581	34,767	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	271	539	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	379	1,136	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	47	196	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1,335	3,015	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	719	2,091	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	785	1,148	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	172	722	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	1,394	4,592	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	81	184	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	248	922	7,846
Food manufacturing	1,802	2,744	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	978	3,572	40,207
Textile product mills	148	571	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	12	88	5,321
Paper manufacturing	467	1,085	14,710
Printing and related support activities	575	1,135	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	210	1,207	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	381	1,769	23,054
Wholesale Trade	4,077	7,910	62,523
Retail Trade	10,635	22,059	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	3,353	5,836	46,941
Education and Health Services	15,420	31,059	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	7,629	15,875	192,748
Professional and Business Services	6,599	15,853	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Lexington County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Michelin North America, Inc	Lexington	Automobile tires	1250	1981
UPS	West Columbia	Airfreight	630	1996
U.S. Food Services	Lexington	Food distributor	600	1988
NCR	West Columbia	Network tech support center	523	1972
Southeastern Freight Lines Inc	Lexington	Transportation services	500	1994
Honeywell International Inc	Columbia	Staple nylon	480	1961
Harsco Track Tech	Cayce	Railroad maintenance equipment	467	1966
Columbia Farms Inc	West Columbia	Poultry processing	425	1982
Cooper Tools	Lexington	Power driven hand tools	392	1982
Union Switch & Signal Inc	Batesburg-Leesville	Assembly electronic products	390	1962
Pirelli Cables & Systems NA-Comm Div	Lexington	Optical fiber communication cable	375	1985
SMI Steel-South Carolina	Cayce	Steel reinforcing bars	360	1961
Solectron	West Columbia	Computer systems & switches	351	1998
Momentum Logistics	Lexington	Delivery service	350	1986
Ellet Brothers Inc	Chapin	Sports equipment	263	1933
Michelin North America, Inc	Lexington	Earthmover tires	250	1998
SMI Joist South Carolina	Cayce	Steel bar joist	233	1955
JB Martin Company	Batesburg-Leesville	Velvet	228	1956
Lion Ribbon Co	Batesburg-Leesville	Narrow fabrics	222	1972
Otis Spunkmeyer	Cayce	Frozen baked goods	220	1977

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	155,363	270,320	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-18,753	-29,207	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	46%	46%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	9,477	17,079	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	5.7%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	456	2,241	22,196
Manufacturing	374	1,947	19,196
Distribution	72	222	1,213
Service	10	72	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	51,215	86,458	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Lexington County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	381
Data Processing Technology	180
Engineering Technologies (Total)	154
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	68
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	334
Industrial Electronics	44
HVAC	50
Precision Production (Total)	131
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	97

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Lexington County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$546	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$28,394	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Lexington County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$37,018	\$39,027
Wood product	\$26,258	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$34,429	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$34,888	\$37,533
Machinery	\$45,248	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	\$47,371	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$45,235	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$21,083	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$30,946	\$34,350
Food	\$20,376	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$25,338	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$20,427	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	\$39,325	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$35,438	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Lexington and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Lexington Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.01	\$12.25	\$15.34
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$8.86	\$10.85	\$13.19
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$9.23	\$12.52	\$15.19
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$11.23	\$12.23	\$13.59
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$10.39	\$11.92	\$13.19
Logging Equipment Operators	\$8.56	\$10.24	\$10.65
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.91	\$15.55	\$19.27
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	*	*	*
Machinists	\$9.01	\$12.80	\$15.97
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.77	\$11.02	\$12.62
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$11.71	\$12.43	\$13.22
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.82	\$8.60	\$10.52
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.25	\$9.82	\$10.59
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.04	\$16.23	\$19.76
Welders, Cutters & Solders	\$9.76	\$12.18	\$13.99
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$8.97	\$10.53	\$12.34
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Lexington Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$34,340	\$49,480	\$63,860
Engineers, NEC	\$30,600	\$46,040	\$57,640
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$42,380	\$51,840
Industrial Engineers	\$37,180	\$47,060	\$56,080
Mechanical Engineers	\$46,200	\$57,280	\$68,040

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available